Nobel Poet Ignores Plea For 2 Soviets

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By Wilfrid Fleisher
Special to The Washington Post

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 9—Mikhail Sholokhov, the Soviet author who is here to receive the Nobel Prize for literature Friday, has ignored an appeal to use his influence to free two Russian authors now imprisoned in the Soviet Union.

The appeal came from Mark Carter, an editor for Collins, the British firm that has published works of the two imprisoned writers.

Doesn't Expect Reply

Carter, here for the ceremonies, said today he had delivered an appeal to Sholokhov's room Wednesday but had received no reply and does not expect one. All attempts to meet or communicate with Sholokhov have failed.

The two Russian authors on behalf of whom Carter made his appeal are Andrei Sinyavsky, whose works have been published by Collins under the pen name of Abram Tertz, and Yuli Daniel, whose pen name is Nikolai Arzhanov.

In his appeal, Carter asked Sholokhov "to use the influence he possesses as a writer and Nobel prize winner on behalf of two fellow citizens who are convinced through their works that the great tradition of Russian literature is alive today and will live on in the future."

When Sholokhov was questioned at an earlier press conference here regarding recent arrests of authors in the Soviet Union, he retorted angrily that "Soviet laws apply to everyone, including authors."

This was taken to mean that Sholokhov considers that his countrymen violated Soviet laws by smuggling out their manuscripts for publication in Western countries.

Carter said today that as far as he knew "it is not an offense in the Soviet Union either to send a manuscript abroad for publication or to have it published under a pseudonyum."

Carter revealed that Collins had received appeals and protests from a number of Western countries including the United States on behalf of the two Russian authors now held in Lubyanka prison. He made public an appeal forwarded directly to Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin by 18 prominent American authors which he had received from New York today.

Express Alarm

The American authors expressed alarm over the arrest of the two Russians "because there seems to us to be a regression to the Stalin period when every criticism or dissent was a matter for the police."

The Americans asked Kosygin to review the Sinyavsky-Daniel case "in a broader context." The appeal was signed by Edward Albee, Hanna Arendt, W. H. Auden, Saul Bellow, Michael Harrington, Lillian Hellman, John Hersey, Robert Lowell, Dwight MacDonald, Norman Mailer, Lewis Mumford, Reinhold Niehbur, Philip Rahv, Philip Roth, Meyer Schapiro, William Styron, Lionel Trilling and Robert Penn Warren.

French Diplomats Off For Talks in Hanoi

Reuters

PEKING, Dec. 9—Top-ranking French diplomat Jean Chauvel left here today for talks in Hanoi with North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong.

Chauvel is the highest ranking French diplomat to visit Hanoi since U.S. bombing of North Vietnam began last February. France has a diplomatic mission there.